

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's Office Action of June 28, 2007 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment of the abstract and claims, and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

the abstract is amended to replace "is disclosed" with "--is provided";

independent claim 1 is amended to specify that the digital ink is stored in a database accessible by a processing system, that the receiving, determining and selecting steps are carried out in the processing system, that the method further comprises the processing system returning any matches to the search input query as a search result, that the search input query is received as digital ink having a specialized textual or graphical format, and that a digital ink searching algorithm is selected which is specifically based on the specialized format of the digital ink determined by the processing system;

independent claim 17 is amended to specify that the search input query is received as digital ink having a specialized textual or graphical format, and that a digital ink searching algorithm is selected which is specifically based on the specialized format of the digital ink determined by the processing system; and

claims 2-16 and 18-23 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the Amendment does not add any new matter to the present application as the amended features are described, for example, at page 10, lines 15-25, page 14, line 25-page 16, line 4 of the present specification.

Regarding Specification Objections

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment of the abstract provides the correction required by the Examiner.

The Applicant has amended pages 1 to 3 of the specification by deleting the paragraphs entitled "Co-pending applications" and "Cross-references to related applications" and replacing them with new updated paragraphs. The US docket numbers and US application numbers have merely been replaced by their corresponding US applications numbers or US grant numbers, where applicable. The Applicant submits that these amendments introduce no new matter.

Regarding 35 USC 101 Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendments of independent claim 1 to specify that the digital ink is stored in a database accessible by a processing system, that the receiving, determining and selecting steps are carried out in the processing system, and that the method further comprises the processing system returning any matches to the search input query as a search result, ensures that claims 1-16 are directed to a method that runs on a medium and produces a concrete result.

Regarding 35 USC 112, second paragraph Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendments of independent claims 1 and 17 to specify that the search input query is received as digital ink having a specialized textual or graphical format and that a digital ink searching algorithm is selected which is specifically based on the specialized format of the digital ink determined by the processing system, clarifies the recitations of claims 1-23.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claims 1 and 17, and claims 2-16 and 18-23, is not taught or suggested by Lopresti et al. (US 5,832,474) [it is noted that the rejection text mentions Poon et al. which the Applicant considers is in error], because Lopresti merely discloses searching a database of user-drawn annotations for matches to temporal and spatial patterns of search queries (see col. 3, lines 16-28) and does not teach or suggest determining specific searching algorithms for searching specialised textual and graphic formats of input digital ink search queries, as is required by the claimed invention.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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